

Appl. No. 09/841,883  
Amendment sent May 1, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of February 21, 2006

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**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

1                   18. (Currently Amended) ~~In a~~ A license issuing system in which a license-  
2     issuing computer, a seller computer, and a purchaser computer are coupled to communicate with  
3     each other, wherein:

4                   the seller computer requests input of client information, product information and  
5     license program information to the purchaser computer;

6                   upon receiving the information, the purchaser computer transfers the client  
7     information, the product information and the license program information to the seller computer

8                   the seller computer transfers the product information and the license program  
9     information, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer; ~~and~~

10                  the license-issuing computer issues a license key for the program specified by the  
11     license program information upon authentication of the product information received from the  
12     seller computer; ~~and~~ [[.]]

13                  the seller computer receives said license key from the license-issuing computer  
14     and transfers said license key to the purchaser computer based on the client information.

1                   19. (Currently Amended) A license key issuing system, ~~for use by three~~  
2     ~~computers coupled via a network, the system comprising:~~

3                   a purchaser computer for receiving client information, product information and  
4     license program information;

5                   a seller computer connected with the purchaser computer to receive the client  
6     information, the product information, and the license program information from the purchaser  
7     computer, and in response provide the product information and the license program information,  
8     but not the client information, ~~to the license-issuing computer~~, together with a request for a  
9     license key;

10                  the a license-issuing computer connected with the seller computer and operable to  
11     receive the product information, the license program information, and the request for a license  
12     key from the seller computer, issuing and in response issue a license key to the seller computer in  
13     ~~response to a request~~ upon authentication of the product information;

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14                    wherein the seller computer then transmitting is further operable to receive the  
15   license key and transmit the license key to the purchaser computer.

1                    20. (Currently Amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for  
2   issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:

3                    [[a]] program code which allows the license-issuing computer to extract product  
4   information and license program information from a license request, product information,  
5   wherein any client information has been removed by a seller computer sending the license  
6   request, and which does not allow the license-issuing computer to store client information,  
7   wherein the license program information and the client information are provided by an individual  
8   to [[a]] the seller computer; and

9                    [[a]] program code which authenticates the product information and issues a  
10   license key to the seller computer to send to the individual for a program specified by the license  
11   program information.

1                    21. (Currently Amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for  
2   issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:

3                    [[a]] program code which allows the license-issuing computer to receive a product  
4   number, a license program name, and a trial license key, but not client information, from a seller  
5   computer for a purchaser who enters that information sends the product number, the license  
6   program name, the trial license key, and the client information to the into a seller computer; and

7                    [[a]] program code which authenticates the product number, and in response  
8   issues a trial license key to the seller computer to send to the purchaser to allow use of a program  
9   specified by the license program name for a given time.

1                    22. (Previously Presented) A license-issuing computer as in claim 21  
2   characterized in that the license-issuing computer issues a license for a program stored in a data  
3   storage system.

1                    23. (Currently Amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for  
2   issuing license keys, the license-issuing computer including:

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[[a]] program code [[in]] which allows the license-issuing computer receives to  
receive a product number, a license program name, but not client information, from a seller  
computer for a purchaser;

[[a]] program code [[in]] which allows the license-issuing computer to perform  
performs authentication of the product number and issues to issue a trial license key to the seller  
computer to send to the purchaser to allow limited use of the license program by the purchaser;  
 and

[[a]] program code [[in]] which allows the license-issuing computer to  
authenticate ~~authenticates~~ the trial license key when the license-issuing computer receives the  
 license program name and the trial license key from the seller computer, and which issues a paid  
 license key, for an authenticated trial license key, to the seller computer to send to the purchaser

24. (Currently Amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a  
 license key ~~[[to]]~~ by a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser  
 computer through a network, the seller computer including:

[[a]] program code which requests client information, product information, and  
 license program information from the purchaser computer;

[[a]] program code which receives the client information, the product information,  
 and the license program information from the purchaser computer, and which transmits only the  
 product information and the license program information to the license-issuing computer; and

[[a]] program code which receives the license key from the license-issuing  
 computer and transmits the license key to the purchaser computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a  
 license key ~~[[to]]~~ by a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser  
 computer, the seller computer including :

~~a program which requests input of client information, product information, and~~  
~~license program information to the purchaser computer through the network;~~

[[a]] program code which receives ~~[[the]]~~ client information, ~~[[the]]~~ product  
 information, and ~~[[the]]~~ license program information from the purchaser computer and transmits

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8 only the product information and the license program information to the license-issuing  
9 computer; and  
10 [[a]] program code which receives the license key from the license-issuing  
11 computer and transmits the license key to the purchaser computer.

1 26. (Currently Amended) A seller computer which requests a trial license key to  
2 allow use of a computer program for a trial period, and a special license key which extends the  
3 trial period in response to a request from a purchaser computer through a network, the seller  
4 computer including:

5 means for receiving input of a product number, a license program name, and a  
6 trial license key from a purchaser;

7 means for providing a license key received from a license-issuing computer;

8 ~~a program which requests~~ means for requesting input of client information, the  
9 product number, and the license program name ~~[[to]]~~ from the purchaser computer;

10 ~~a program which receives~~ means for receiving the client information, the product  
11 information, and the license program information from the purchaser computer and ~~transmits~~  
12 transmitting only one of (1) the product information and the license program information to the  
13 license-issuing computer or (2) the product number, the license program name, and the trial  
14 license key to the license-issuing computer; and

15 ~~a program which receives~~ means for receiving the trial license key from the  
16 license-issuing computer and ~~transmits~~ transmitting the license key to the purchaser computer.

1 27. (Previously Presented) A method for a seller computer to request a license  
2 key from a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser computer through  
3 a network, the method comprising:

4 a step in which the seller computer receives client information, a product number  
5 and a license program name from a purchaser computer;

6 a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number and the license  
7 program name, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer;

8 a step in which the seller computer receives a trial license key to allow use of the  
9 program for a given period;

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- 10 a step in which the seller computer transmits the trial license key to the purchase-  
11 computer;  
12 a step in which the seller computer inputs the client information, the product  
13 number, the license program name and the trial license key communicated from a purchaser  
14 therein,  
15 a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number, the license  
16 program name and the trial license key to the license-issuing computer,  
17 a step in which the seller computer receives a special license key for extending a  
18 trial period by the trial license key from the license-issuing computer, and  
19 a step in which the seller computer transmits the special license key to the  
20 purchaser.

- 1 28. (Currently Amended) A licensing issuing method of a license issuing system  
2 comprising a license-issuing computer, a seller computer, a purchaser computer, and a network  
3 which connects the license-issuing computer, the seller computer and the purchaser computer,  
4 wherein:  
5 the license-issuing computer requests input of client information, product  
6 information, and license program information [[to]] from the purchaser computer to send to the  
7 seller computer;  
8 the purchaser computer transfers the client information, the product information,  
9 and the license program information to the seller computer in response to the request from the  
10 license-issuing computer;  
11 the seller computer transfers the product information and the license program  
12 information, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer; and  
13 the license-issuing computer issues a license key for a program specified by the  
14 license program information, upon authentication of the product information, to the seller  
15 computer to send to the purchaser computer.

- 1 29. (Currently Amended) A license issuing method of a license-issuing computer  
2 which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the network,  
3 the license issuing method including:

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4 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives product information, licens  
5 program information, but not client information, from data input by a purchaser and sent to a  
6 seller computer;

7 a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the product  
8 information; and

9 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a license key for a program  
10 specified by the license program information to the seller computer when the authentication is  
11 normally finished to be sent to the purchaser.

1 30. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein the license-issuing  
2 computer issues a license key for a program specified by a license program name.

1 31. (Currently Amended) A license issuing method of a license-issuing compute  
2 which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the network,  
3 the license issuing method including:

4 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives a product number [[,]] and a  
5 license program name, but not client information, the product number, the client information,  
6 and the license program name provided by the purchaser to a seller computer;

7 a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the product number;

8 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a trial license key to the seller  
9 to be sent to the purchaser to allow use of a program specified by the license program name for a  
10 given period;

11 a step in which the license-issuing computer receives the product number, the  
12 license program name, and the trial license key, ~~the product number, the license program name~~  
13 ~~and the trial license key;~~

14 a step in which the license-issuing computer performs authentication of the trial  
15 license key; and

16 a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a special license key to the  
17 seller computer to send to the purchaser which extends a trial period.

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- 1                   32. (Previously Presented) A license issuing method characterized in that the
- 2   license issuing method according to claim 31 issues the license for a program installed in a data
- 3   storage system.